

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Replace the Abstract of the Disclosure currently of record with the attached new Abstract of the Disclosure.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, first full paragraph, please amend as follows:

After the image formation in the image forming unit, the sheet member is discharged outside of the image forming apparatus. In recent years, the complexity of the image forming apparatus has ~~been progressed~~ increased, and ~~therefore~~, it is desirable that the image forming apparatus should have the functions of a copying machine, a printer, a facsimile and the like in combination, and that the sheet members to be discharged should be classified according to the image forming function, thereby obtaining an image forming system easy to be used. In order to achieve such an image forming system, for example, there has been proposed an image forming apparatus configured such that discharge ports, through which the sheet member in the image forming unit is discharged outside of the image forming apparatus via the transportation path, are disposed on both sides of the apparatus body, thereby facilitating the classification of the sheet members.

Page 2, second paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3, please amend as follows:

Furthermore, the image forming apparatus has been made to cope with space saving by reducing the size of the image forming apparatus or an area occupied for installation. Therefore, the transportation path in the image forming unit in the image forming apparatus is changed from a lateral orientation to a longitudinal or vertical orientation. Thus, the number of image forming apparatuses having the transportation path of the longitudinal or vertical orientation has become increased in recent years.

Page 3, the last paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4, please amend as follows:

In the conventional image forming apparatus, when operation is carried out in the above-described manner in the state in which the side cabinet is opened, a recovery operation such as jamming processing for taking out and removing a sheet member staying jammed on the transportation path is performed by rotating an operating member such as a knob for turning transporting means such as a transporting roller or a fixing roller housed inside of a frame in an image forming unit after the side cabinet is opened (see, for example, paragraphs [0050] and [0052] and FIGS. 3 and 5 in the specification of JP-A No. 2002-274693).

Page 4, the second full paragraph, please amend as follows:

However, in the image forming apparatus disclosed in JP-A No. 2002-274693, since the operation for taking out the staying jammed sheet member from the transportation path by operating the operating member such as the knob disposed inside of the apparatus body after the side cabinet is opened is performed from a position in front of the image forming apparatus, it has been difficult to find the knob or the like disposed inside of the apparatus body, and further, the operation has not been easy.

Page 4, the last paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5, please amend as follows:

In contrast, as disclosed in JP-A No. 11-160948, in the case where the knob or the like is operated in front of the image forming apparatus, the front cabinet must be opened owing to the relationship of a position at which the knob is disposed (i.e., a position of a transporting roller member which must be rotated), and therefore, both of the front cabinet and the side cabinet must be opened. In other words, since two operations must be performed, no little considerable work has been required for the recovery operation.

Page 5, the first full paragraph, please amend as follows:

A cabinet opening structure according to an embodiment of the present invention comprises: a cabinet having an openable portion which can be opened from an apparatus body in the apparatus provided with a transporting unit for transporting a sheet member; and an operating member, which is connected to the transporting unit, can be manually operated, and is operated when the sheet member is taken out of the inside of the apparatus body; wherein the operating member is disposed at a position, at which the operating member is exposed to the outside of the apparatus body in a direction perpendicular to the opening direction when the openable portion of the cabinet is opened from the apparatus body.

Page 6, the first full paragraph, please amend as follows:

In the above-described configuration, the openable portion of the cabinet may be disposed on a side perpendicular to the fore front surface of the apparatus body, at which an apparatus operating unit for operating the apparatus body is provided, and further, the operating member may be exposed onto the side of the operating unit of the apparatus body, at which the apparatus operating unit is provided.

Page 6, the last paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7, please amend as follows:

An image forming apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention comprises: a transporting unit for transporting a sheet member; an image forming unit for forming an image on the sheet member based on image information; a fixing device for fixing the image formed on the sheet member in the image forming unit; a cabinet having an openable portion which can be opened from an apparatus body; a first operating member, which is connected to the transporting unit, which can be manually operated, and is operated when the sheet member is taken out of the inside of the apparatus body; and a second operating member, which is connected to the fixing device, which can be manually operated, and is operated when the sheet member is taken out of the inside of the apparatus body; wherein the first and second operating members are disposed at positions, at which the operating members are exposed to the outside of the apparatus body in a direction perpendicular to the opening direction when the openable portion of the cabinet is opened from the apparatus body, in the proximity of an end of a frame member in the apparatus body along a transportation direction of the sheet member.

Page 7, the last paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8, please amend as follows:

In the above-described configuration, the transporting unit ~~includes~~ may include a registration roller pair for controlling a timing when the sheet member is transported with respect to the image forming unit; the fixing device includes a fixing roller for holding the sheet member with the application of heat under pressure so as to fix the image formed on the sheet member; and the first operating member ~~is~~ may be connected to the registration roller pair in the transporting unit while the second operating member ~~is~~ may be connected to the fixing roller in the fixing device.

Page 8, the first full paragraph, please amend as follows:

In the image forming apparatus having the above-described configuration, when the recovery operation is carried out by taking out the jammed sheet member in the case where the sheet member accidentally stays inside of the apparatus due to transportation jamming or the like, the first and second operating members can be easily operated since the operating members are provided in front of the operator even if the openable portion of the cabinet ~~is~~ on a side perpendicular to the side facing ~~to the apparatus is opened by~~ the operator who carries out the recovery operation. The registration roller pair for transporting the sheet member while

holding the sheet member by strong force and the fixing roller can be manually driven independently of each other by operating the first and second operating members, thereby readily taking out the sheet recording member staying inside of the image forming apparatus due to the trouble such as the transportation jamming.

Page 12, the second paragraph, please amend as follows:

The sheet supplying unit 3 includes a first transportation path 15 and a second transportation path 16 in order to transport the sheets contained in the sheet supplying trays 11 to 14 toward the printer unit 2. Incidentally, the first transportation path 15 is adapted to transport the sheets contained in the sheet supplying trays 11, 13 and 14 toward the printer unit 2; ~~in contrast~~, and the second transportation path 16 is adapted to transport the sheets contained in the sheet supplying tray 12 toward the printer unit 2.

Page 12, the last paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13, please amend as follows:

Moreover, the first transportation path 15 extends in a vertical direction ~~perpendicular to a frame 17~~ in the sheet supplying unit 3. In contrast, the second transportation path 16 extends in a horizontal direction ~~along the frame 17~~. Consequently, the sheet supplying trays 11 to 14, the first transportation path 15 and the second transportation path 16 are

efficiently arranged inside of the sheet supplying unit 3, thereby saving the space of the sheet supplying unit 3. In the case where the sheets are stacked in each of the sheet supplying trays 11 to 14, a target one of the sheet supplying trays 11 to 14 is withdrawn out forward in the main body of the image forming apparatus 1, and then, sheets are replenished.

Page 13, the first and second paragraphs, please amend as follows:

If the sheet is jammed on the first transportation path 15, a guide 15a (indicated by cross hatching ~~a slash line~~ in FIG. 1) constituting the first transportation path 15 pivoted away from opposing rollers ~~is turned forward of a user by~~ using the back side of the sheet supplying unit 3 as a fulcrum. In this manner, the sheet jammed on the first transportation path 15 can be removed. Incidentally, the jammed sheet is removed by utilizing a work space previously defined between the first transportation path 15 and the frame 17.

In contrast, if the sheet is jammed on the second transportation path 16, a guide 16a (indicated by cross hatching ~~a slash line~~ in FIG. 1) constituting the second transportation path 16 is pivoted away from opposing rollers ~~turned forward by~~ using the back side of the sheet supplying unit 3 as a fulcrum. In this manner, the sheet jammed on the second transportation

path 16 can be removed. Incidentally, the removing work (i.e., recovering operation) is carried out by withdrawing the sheet supplying trays 11 and 12 arranged in parallel to each other forward of the user so as to secure the work space under the second transportation path 16.

Page 14, the paragraph bridging pages 14 - 15, please amend as follows:

A registration roller pair 19 for controlling the corresponding position of a sheet recording medium with respect to the image formed on the photosensitive drum 4 is located upstream in a transportation direction of the photosensitive drum 4 in the printer unit 2. The registration roller member 19 is adapted to temporarily stop the sheet being supplied to the printer unit 2, and then, to apply flexibility to thus causing the sheet to bend as a result of being pushed against the registration rollers. Consequently, it is possible to correct the inclination of the sheet, which may be inclined during the transportation to the registration roller pair 19, and the sheet is started at a timing of an image to be formed on the photosensitive drum 4 in response to a signal output from a control unit, not shown. Thus, the image is transferred at a proper position on the sheet. As a consequence, a strong abutting force (i.e., a strong holding force) is applied to the

registration roller pair 19, thereby preventing the sheet from getting into the registration roller pair 19 during the bending application of the sheet flexibility when the inclination of the sheet is corrected. The holding force is set to 1.5 kg to 3 kg.

Page 16, the last paragraph, please amend as follows:

A front cabinet 21a in the cabinet 21 in the above-described printer unit (the image forming unit) 2 is securely fixed to a frame of the apparatus body. In contrast, a side cabinet (i.e., an openable portion according to the present invention) 21b is integrated with a lengthwise pair of rail members 26, which are guided in substantially a horizontal direction by guide members, not shown, disposed in the frame of the apparatus body ~~for the time in the event~~ of jamming ~~processing~~ or maintenance, as shown in FIG. 3, and further, is configured such that it can be withdrawn (i.e., opened) leftward, as shown in FIG. 3.

Page 17, the second paragraph, please amend as follows:

A knob 28 (a first operating member according to the illustrated embodiment of the present invention) and a knob 27 (a second operating member according to the illustrated embodiment of the present invention) are provided at a front frame member 29a in the apparatus body such that they are exposed to the front of the apparatus body toward a direction perpendicular to the withdrawing

direction when the side cabinet 21b is withdrawn while they are concealed by a front flange 21c of the side cabinet 21b when the side cabinet 21b is closed with respect to the apparatus body.

Page 17, the last paragraph bridging pages 17 and 18, please amend as follows:

The two knobs 27 and 28 are arranged separately from each other upstream and downstream ~~of~~ along the vertical transportation path in the image forming apparatus 1. At the intermediate portion of the front frame member 29a for supporting the two knobs 27 and 28 thereon, there is formed a cutout c, which is largely cut out, together with a cover member 30 covering the outside thereof, thereby achieving a structure in which a hand can be readily put into the image forming apparatus 1 at the time of the jamming processing (i.e., the recovery operation) or the like.

Page 18, the first full paragraph, please amend as follows:

As shown in FIG. 4, the upper knob 27 is connected in association with a fixing roller driving pulley 32 via an endless belt (i.e., transmitting means according to the present invention) 3135a. The turning operation of the knob 27 enables the fixing roller (i.e., part of the transporting means according to the illustrated embodiment present invention) 20a to be turned both forward and reversely. ~~In contrast~~ Similarly, the lower knob 28 is

connected in association with a registration roller driving pulley  
34 via an endless belt (i.e., part of the transmitting means  
according to the illustrated embodiment present invention) 33. The  
turning operation of the knob 28 enables the registration roller  
pair (i.e., the transporting means according to the present  
invention) 19 to be turned both forward and reversely.

Page 19, the first full paragraph, please amend as follows:

FIG. 5 shows a drive mechanism for rotating the above-described fixing roller 20a. As shown in FIG. 5, a strut 27b of the upper knob 27 is turnably pivoted by the front frame member 29a, and further, a driving pulley 27a integrally formed inside of the knob 27 is connected in association with a driven pulley 35 via the endless belt 3135a.

Page 20, the last paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21, please amend as follows:

Here, if there is provided a mechanism for separating the power source in the case of the manual operation, operability can be enhanced more. Additionally, it is preferable that an easily gripped periphery, such as the illustrated example rough unevenness (having substantially the shape of a star), should be formed at on each of the knobs 27 and 28 in such a manner as to readily hook a

finger, and further, that each of the knobs 27 and 28 should be formed in such a size as to be naturally grasped.

Page 22, the second full paragraph, please amend as follows:

When the jammed sheet member is taken out in the recovery operation in the case where the sheet member is jammed on the transportation path, and thus, stays inside of the apparatus, the operator can easily operate the operating member since the operator faces the operating member when the operator, for performing the recovery operation, opens the openable portion of the cabinet which is perpendicular to the side facing to the operator apparatus. Moreover, the operator can easily operate the operating member since the operating member ~~cannot be~~ is not concealed by the openable portion but is exposed to the outside of the apparatus in the direction perpendicular to the opening direction even if the operator opens the openable portion forward at the position where the operator faces the openable portion of the cabinet.